
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THROUGH ITS OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ASSURANCE TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP AND TO INSURE AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ELDERLY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND SERVICES BY PROVIDING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO THE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that a very serious issue
2 facing our state is the lack of capacity currently in our
3 community to provide adequate care in community-based
4 residential settings; and

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6 WHEREAS, this is true not only for individuals with
7 disabilities, but for the vast majority of elderly individuals
8 in need of basic medical care or assistance with their
9 activities of daily living; and

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11 WHEREAS, the legislature further finds that one of the
12 unfortunate results of this lack of capacity has been a
13 disturbing increase in the number of Hawaii residents discharged
14 from hospitals or treatment facilities in Hawaii to facilities
15 on the mainland; and

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17 WHEREAS, the legislature finds this to be an unacceptable
18 situation and as an island community, we have a responsibility
19 to take care of our elders and individuals with disabilities in
20 a proper fashion; and

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22 WHEREAS, the notion of shipping our kupuna to the mainland
23 merely because they are old or ill and are occupying valuable
24 space in a hospital while they are waiting for a bed to open up
25 at a nursing home or care home is shocking; and

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27 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that the Department of
28 Health has the mandate to promote health in the state by
29 ensuring that there is an adequate supply of elderly health care
30 facilities and services; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is mandated to reverse
2 this alarming trend of sending our local elders and citizens
3 with disabilities to the mainland simply because they failed to
4 provide adequate capacity to care for them here at home; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Health must take affirmative
7 action to build, develop, and increase our state's capacity to
8 care for our people in a way that preserves their dignity and
9 allows them to reside in a community-based setting and receive
10 care appropriate to their needs; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
15 Health is requested to promote health in the state by ensuring
16 that there is an adequate supply of elderly health care
17 facilities and services to care for Hawaii's people; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health
20 examine and determine the adequacy of the statutes,
21 administrative rules, and inspection and enforcement processes,
22 and make recommendations to modify them in order to promote,
23 develop and expand residential care facilities for the disabled
24 and elderly; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health
27 provide community-based care and foster homes with education,
28 training and support to ensure its expansion to meet the
29 increasing demand; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health
32 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session;
34 and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
37 Director of Human Services, and the Attorney General.
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OFFERED BY: Rich T. O'Connell

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CAB HR 0310-2008



[Signature]

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